

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PEKING 00636 090916Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00
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R 090808Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0079
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

S E C R E T PEKING 0636

LIMDIS

NOFORN INCLUDING INDIANS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, CH, IN

SUBJ: SINO-INDIAN BORDER DISCUSSIONS

1. INDIAN EMBOFF TOLD USLO MARCH 8 THAT PRC OFFICIALS HAD INDICATED THAT SINO-INDIAN BORDER PROBLEMS WOULD BE TOUCHED ON DURING WANG PING-NAN'S CURRENT VISIT TO INDIA AS HEAD OF A FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION. ALTHOUGH WANG, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES, SEEMS UNLIKELY TO CARRY THE DISCUSSIONS FAR, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT EXPECTS HIM TO BE CARRYING A PROPOSAL FOR MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON THE BORDER ISSUE IN THE FUTURE.

2. INDIAN EMBOFF ALSO STATED THAT THE CHINESE SIDE "SEEMS FAVORABLY INCLINED" TOWARD REACHING A BORDER SETTLEMENT.

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HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT ONLY PLEASED WITH WANG'S VISIT BUT "WE ARE ALSO VERY HAPPY" WITH THE UNEXPECTED REFERENCE TO THE SETTLEMENT OF SINO-INDIAN "QUESTIONS" IN PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG'S FEBRUARY 26 WORK REPORT TO THE FIFTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

3. THE INDIAN EMBASSY HAD NOTED THAT THE FEBRUARY 23 ISSUE OF THE PRC'S RESTRICTED FOREIGN PRESS DIGEST, TS'AN-KAN HSIAO-HIS (REFERENCE NEWS), CONTAINED AN ASSOCIATED PRESS ARTICLE REPORTING A SPEECH IN SOUTH INDIA BY PRIME MINISTER DESAI. THE ARTICLE QUOTED A STATEMENT BY DESAI THAT THE PRC CURRENTLY "OCCUPIES" A LARGE AMOUNT OF INDIAN TERRITORY IN THE BORDER REGION. (COMMENT: SOME PEKING OBSERVERS THINK THAT THE EDITORIAL LINE TAKEN IN REFERENCE NEWS ACCURATELY REFLECTS PRC POLICY. IN THIS CASE, THE INDIAN EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE AP ARTICLE INDICATES THAT THE PRC HAS RECONSIDERED ITS POSITION ON THE BORDER PROBLEM).

WOODCOCK

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NNN

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